



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

Office of the Director

RL:432A

HR 288, HD 1 REQUESTING AN EVALUATION OF THE FUEL POTENTIAL OF ALL PLANTED FOREST STANDS

Statement for
House Committee on Finance
Public Hearing - 8 April 1981

By
Charles Lamoureux, Botany
Rick Vandenberg, Horticulture
Jacquelin N. Miller, Environmental Center
Garret Kawamura, Environmental Center
Ronald Renkoski, Environmental Center

HR 288, HD 1 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources to evaluate the fuel potential of selected planted exotic forest stands and to remove any obstacles to the use of this potential fuel. This statement on HR 288, HD 1 does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

We find that this house resolution accurately identifies the biomass fuel potential of the State's planted forest stands, while taking adequate precautions to protect our fragile natural resources. The report to be prepared by the Department of Land and Natural Resources should also identify those areas suitable for the development of biomass plantations, such as those on Molokai. Terrain, climate and accessibility should be taken into consideration in such determinations. This addition to the Department's study would provide decision makers with a long-run assessment of the State's biomass fuel potential by focussing on renewable resources. Without such considerations, the Department's evaluation of all planted forest stands will probably underestimate their biomass fuel potential.

In the Environmental Center's testimony on HR 288 before the House Committee on Energy, Ecology and Environmental Protection on March 20, 1981, we expressed our concern about the encumbrances and obstacles referred to in paragraph 6. Are the potential encumbrances or obstacles to be identified and removed, legal, physical, regulatory or of all types? The identification of such potential obstacles is essential. Their removal, however, may need to be most carefully evaluated in terms of overall social, environmental, and economic affects.